

Message Text

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ORIGIN SSO-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. KOREA: PARK TO ACCEPT US WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT FIGHT?

KOREAN ASSEMBLY SPEAKER CHUNG INFORMED AMBASSADOR SNEIDER
THAT PRESIDENT PARK HAS INSTRUCTED HIM TO SEEK JAPANESE
PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA'S BACKING FOR PARK'S POLICY ON US
TROOP WITHDRAWAL. CHUNG SAID THAT:

--ALTHOUGH PARK PREFERRED US TROOPS TO REMAIN, HE
ACCEPTED WITHDRAWAL AS INEVITABLE AND WILL NOT
OPPOSE IT ADAMANTLY.

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--PARK WILL SEEK A GRADUAL (4-5 YEAR) WITHDRAWAL
AND REVISION OF THE ARMISTICE AND COMMAND ARRANGE-
MENTS TO COMPENSATE FOR THE LOSS OF US TROOPS.

CHUNG STATED THAT PARK IS NOW RELAXED AND CONFIDENT,
HAVING DECIDED ON HIS TACTICS CONCERNING TROOPS WITH-
DRAWALS AND THE WASHINGTON SCANDALS. (SECRET) SEOUL

00383, 1/15 (EXDIS).

2. STRUGGLE FOR CONTROL OF PNC CONTINUES

EMBASSY DAMASCUS REPORTS THAT THE PLO CENTRAL COMMITTEE MET IN DAMASCUS ON JANUARY 11, BUT FAILED TO AGREE ON WHETHER TO EXPAND THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OR TO DECIDE WHEN IT SHOULD CONVENE. THE PCC WILL MEET AGAIN ON JANUARY 22 TO TRY TO RESOLVE THESE ISSUES. IN A JANUARY 13 PRESS INTERVIEW, PNC CHAIRMAN FAHUM STATED THAT:

--THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE DID NOT CONSIDER FORMATION OF A PROVISIONAL PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT.

--THERE IS URGENT NEED FOR MORE COOPERATION BETWEEN EGYPT, SYRIA, AND THE PLO.

ALTHOUGH FAHUM SAID HE STILL EXPECTS THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO CONVENE BEFORE THE END OF FEBRUARY, SAIQA LEADER MUHSIN HAS REQUESTED POSTPONEMENT UNTIL AFTER THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS ARE HELD AND US POLICY BECOMES CLEARER.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE SURMISE FROM FAHUM'S COMMENTS THAT THE ISSUE OF REPRESENTATION IN THE PNC WAS SUFFICIENTLY CONTENTIOUS TO PRECLUDE DISCUSSION OF OTHER TOPICS. (CONFIDENTIAL) DAMASCUS 308, 1/14.

3. CAIRO COMMENT ON ARAFAT'S THREAT TO QUIT

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EMBASSY CAIRO REPORTS THAT THERE IS MUCH LOCAL CURIOSITY ON THE SUBJECT OF SECRET PLO/JORDANIAN CONTACTS, WHICH ARE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF ARAFAT'S RECENT COMPLAINTS OF "PRESSURES" ON HIM TO REORGANIZE AND REDIRECT PLO POLICY. RUMOR HAS IT THAT ARAFAT CONSIDERS HIMSELF IN THE MIDST OF AN ALL-OUT SYRIAN EFFORT TO EMASCULATE FATAH.

AN ARAFAT CONFIDENT REPORTEDLY COMMENTED TO A BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICER THAT:

--THE PNC WILL CONVENE FEBRUARY 15 IN CAIRO.

--ARAFAT WILL PROBABLY BE AUTHORIZED TO FORM A GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE "WHEN HE THINKS THE TIME IS RIGHT."

--THERE NEED BE NO PNC RESOLUTION ON THE ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY IN LIBERATED TERRITORY, SINCE

SUCH A RESOLUTION WAS PASSED IN 1974.
(CONFIDENTIAL) CAIRO 00788, 1/14.

4. PORTUGAL PEN SEASON ON SA CARNEIRO

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PSD) PRESIDENT SA CARNEIRO HAS BEEN THE OBJECT OF A WHISPERING CAMPAIGN BY ADVERSARIES FROM WITHIN AND WITHOUT HIS PARTY. RECENT PRESS REPORTS OF HIS MARITAL DIFFICULTIES AND ALLEGATIONS OF INTERNAL PARTY CHALLENGES TO HIS LEADERSHIP HAVE PROMPTED SOME PROMINENT PSD FIGURES TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN TO EMBASSY LISBON. THEY FEAR THAT EXPOSURE OF SA CARNEIRO'S MARITAL PROBLEMS COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE ATTITUDE TOWARD HIM HELD BY THE CHURCH AND THE PARTY'S CONSERVATIVE SUPPORTERS IN THE NORTH. SINCE THE PSD WILL LIKELY SUSPECT--HOWEVER UNJUSTIFIABLY--THE RULING
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SOCIALIST PARTY AS BEING BEHIND THE CAMPAIGN, THE RESULT IS LIKELY TO CAUSE FURTHER DAMAGE TO PS-PSD RELATIONS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: CLAIMS OF A WIDESPREAD MOVE TO DUMP SA CARNEIRO APPEAR EXAGGERATED. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE PSD POLITICAL COMMITTEE HAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO REPUDIATE THE PRESS ALLEGATIONS OF PARTY DISSENSION. PARTY INSIDERS ALSO TELL US THAT ATTEMPTS TO EXPOSE SA CARNEIRO'S FAMILY DIFFICULTIES WILL ONLY RESULT IN PSD COUNTER-ATTACKS ON RIVAL POLITICAL LEADERS.
(CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 378, 1/14.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MORNING SUMMARY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE010095
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: GREENLEE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770016-0216
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770148/aaaabpma.tel
Line Count: 151
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7fe1f2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SSO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3586768
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR
To: JCS DOD MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7fe1f2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009